WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for copying data, comprising:

2   receiving a request at a first storage control unit having a first set of volumes,

3   wherein the first storage unit is coupled via a link to a second storage control unit having

4   a second set of volumes that are peer-to-peer copies of the first set of volumes, and

5   wherein the request is for generating a copy of the first and second set of volumes in a

6   third set of volumes in the second storage control unit; and

7   transmitting a command, via the link, from the first storage control unit to the

8   second storage control unit, wherein the transmitted command is capable of causing the

9   second storage control unit to generate the copy of the first and second set of volumes in

10   the third set of volumes in the second storage control unit.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   copying the second set of volumes to the third set of volume in the second storage

3   control unit, wherein the copy is consistent at a point in time.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein copying the second set of volumes to the

2   third set of volumes is performed by a point-in-time copy operation.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the second storage control unit does not

2   have an active link for receiving commands from a device other than the first storage

3   control unit.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   generating synchronous peer-to-peer copies of the first set of volumes to the

3   second set of volumes.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the request is a FlashCopy command

2   including an indicator that indicates that a FlashCopy operation is to be performed

3 remotely from the first storage control unit, and wherein the FlashCopy command is

4 received from a host coupled to the first storage control unit, the method further

5 comprising:

6   signalling the host that the copy has been generated.

1   7.   A system for copying data, comprising:

2   a first storage control unit;

3   a second storage control unit;

4   a link coupling the first storage control unit to the second storage control unit;

5   means for receiving a request at the first storage control unit having a first set of

6 volumes, wherein the first storage unit is coupled via the link to the second storage

7 control unit having a second set of volumes that are peer-to-peer copies of the first set of

8 volumes, and wherein the request is for generating a copy of the first and second set of

9 volumes in a third set of volumes in the second storage control unit; and

10   transmitting a command, via the link, from the first storage control unit to the

11 second storage control unit, wherein the transmitted command is capable of causing the

12 second storage control unit to generate the copy of the first and second set of volumes in

13 the third set of volumes in the second storage control unit.

1   8.   The system of claim 7, further comprising:

2   means for copying the second set of volumes to the third set of volume in the

3 second storage control unit, wherein the copy is consistent at a point in time.

1   9.   The system of claim 8, wherein copying the second set of volumes to the

2 . third set of volumes is performed by a point-in-time copy operation.

1   10.   The system of claim 7, wherein the second storage control unit does not

2 have an active link for receiving commands from a device other than the first storage

3 control unit.

1   11.   The system of claim 7, further comprising:

2   means for generating synchronous peer-to-peer copies of the first set of volumes

3   to the second set of volumes.

1   12.   The system of claim 7, wherein the request is a FlashCopy command

2   including an indicator that indicates that a FlashCopy operation is to be performed

3   remotely from the first storage control unit, and wherein the FlashCopy command is

4   received from a host coupled to the first storage control unit, the system further

5   comprising:

6   means for signalling the host that the copy has been generated.

1   13.   A article of manufacture for copying data, wherein the article of

2   manufacture is capable of causing operations, the operations comprising:

3   receiving a request at a first storage control unit having a first set of volumes,

4   wherein the first storage unit is coupled via a link to a second storage control unit having

5   a second set of volumes that are peer-to-peer copies of the first set of volumes, and

6   wherein the request is for generating a copy of the first and second set of volumes in a

7   third set of volumes in the second storage control unit; and

8   transmitting a command, via the link, from the first storage control unit to the

9   second storage control unit, wherein the transmitted command is capable of causing the

10   second storage control unit to generate the copy of the first and second set of volumes in

11   the third set of volumes in the second storage control unit.

1   14.   The article of manufacture of claim 13, the operations further comprising:

2   copying the second set of volumes to the third set of volume in the second storage

3   control unit, wherein the copy is consistent at a point in time.

1   15.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein copying the second set of

2   volumes to the third set of volumes is performed by a point-in-time copy operation.

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1   16.   The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the second storage control

2   unit does not have an active link for receiving commands from a device other than the

3   first storage control unit.

1   17.   The article of manufacture of claim 13, the operations further comprising:

2   generating synchronous peer-to-peer copies of the first set of volumes to the

3   second set of volumes.

1   18.   The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the request is a FlashCopy

2   command including an indicator that indicates that a FlashCopy operation is to be

3   performed remotely from the first storage control unit, and wherein the FlashCopy

4   command is received from a host coupled to the first storage control unit, the operations

5   further comprising:

6   signalling the host that the copy has been generated.